PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FOURTH SERIES

Vol. XIII, No. 1, pp. 1-2

July 25, 1923

Ι

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSES OF FOUR NEW SNAKES FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

BY
JOHN VAN DENBURGH, Curator
AND
JOSEPH R. SLEVIN, Assistant Curator
Department of Herpetology

This paper is based upon material secured during a recent visit to the Todos Santos Islands and the San Pedro Martir Mountains. One of the chief objects of this expedition was the securing of more information regarding the garter-snakes of the San Pedro Martir Mountains, the status of which had never been satisfactorily settled. The material now at hand makes necessary the description of these garter-snakes as a distinct subspecies. The discovery of the other new snakes was quite unexpected. The presence of a king snake on South Todos Santos Island is most interesting in its zoogeographical aspects.

1. Diadophis anthonyi, new species

Diagnosis.—Similar to *D. amabilis amabilis* but with collar obsolete and edges less definite; gastrosteges heavily marked with complete or interrupted transverse black bars, instead of more or less numerous black spots. Scales in 15 rows. Gastrosteges 180 to 192; urosteges 64. Supralabials 7-7; infralabials 8-8.

Type: Adult male, No. 56766, Mus. Calif. Acad. Sci., collected May 30, 1923, by Joseph R. Slevin on South Todos Santos Island, Lower California, Mexico; two paratypes, Nos. 56764 and 56765 from same locality.

2. Lampropeltis herreræ, new species

Diagnosis.—Similar to L. sonata but with the red of that species represented only by a few small lateral blotches or spots of very pale pink usually evident only on the neck; snout black. Scale rows 23. Gastrosteges 217 to 220; urosteges 52 to 59. White rings on body 36 to 41; on tail, 8 to 10.

Type: Adult male, No. 56755, Mus. Calif. Acad. Sci., collected May 25, 1923, by Joseph R. Slevin on South Todos Santos Island, Lower California, Mexico; eight paratypes, Nos. 56756 to 56763 from same locality.

3. Lampropeltis agalma, new species

Diagnosis.—Similar to L. zonata but with upper surface of snout largely red instead of black. Scale rows 23. Gastrosteges 207 to 213; urosteges 52 to 56. White rings on body 40 to 45; on tail, 8 to 10.

Type: Adult male, No. 56856, Mus. Calif. Acad. Sci., collected June 16, 1923, by Joseph R. Slevin at about 7,000 feet altitude near Alcatraz, San Pedro Martir Mountains, Lower California, Mexico; one paratype, No. 56879, from Valladares Creek, San Pedro Martir Mountains, Lower California, Mexico.

4. Thamnophis ordinoides hueyi, new subspecies

Diagnosis.—Similar to T. o. vagrans but with dorsal spots and dark gastrostege markings usually less evident and gastrosteges fewer. Scale rows 21-19-17. Gastrosteges 151 to 161; urosteges 66 to 82. Supralabials usually 8-8; infralabials normally 10-10; preoculars 1-1. Dorsal line complete, its borders often invaded by more or less evident dorsal spots; anterior edges of gastrosteges with more or less concealed dark pigmentation.

Type: Adult female, No. 56855, Mus. Calif. Acad. Sci., collected June 13, 1923, by Joseph R. Slevin at about 7,300 feet altitude near Arroyo Encantada, between La Grulla and La Encantada, San Pedro Martir Mountains, Lower California, Mexico; ten paratypes, Nos. 56852 to 56854 and 56856 to 56862

from same locality.